

## **Four judges inducted as Fellows of Mississippi Bar Foundation**

April 26, 2013

Mississippi Court of Appeals Judge Virginia Carlton, Chancery Judge Carter O. Bise, and Circuit Judges Kathy King Jackson and Jannie M. Lewis have been named Fellows of the Mississippi Bar Foundation.

Fifteen Bar Fellows were inducted on April 25 at a dinner ceremony at the Old Capitol Inn in Jackson. The ceremony marked the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mississippi Bar Foundation.

Being named a Fellow is the highest honor given by the Bar Foundation and is reserved for a select few, said Stephen Rosenblatt of Ridgeland, president-elect of the Mississippi Bar Foundation. "Fellow selection is based not only on their excellence as lawyers, but on their dedication to service to the public and the profession," Rosenblatt said. "Recognition as a Fellow designates the highest level of professionalism, competence and leadership."

Attorneys inducted as Bar Fellows for 2013 are: U.S. Attorney Felicia C. Adams, Oxford; Michael S. Adelman, Hattiesburg; E. Barry Bridgforth, Yazoo City; Edward F. Donovan, Biloxi; Henderson S. Hall, Jr., Jackson; Catherine V. Kilgore, Oxford; Terry R. Levy, Jackson; Floyd M. Melton, III, Greenwood; J. Mack Varner, Vicksburg; William E. Whitfield, III, Gulfport; and E. Stephen Williams, Jackson.

Attorney Michael S. Carr of Cleveland received the Bar Foundation's Law-Related Public Education Award. Attorney John G. Corlew of Jackson was honored with the Bar Foundation's Professionalism Award.

Judge Carlton, a native of Columbia and resident of Jackson, has served on the Mississippi Court of Appeals since January 2007. She served in the Mississippi House of Representatives 2004-2006. She previously served as a public defender and an assistant district attorney in the 15th Judicial District. She also worked with the Southwest Mississippi Children's Advocacy Center as a staff attorney and instructor.

She currently serves on the Mississippi Commission on Children's Justice. She previously served on the state Drug Courts Advisory Committee, the study committee reviewing the Code of Judicial Conduct, and the study committee reviewing the state's domestic violence laws. She served as an adjunct professor at Mississippi College School of Law and at Belhaven University. She is a Fellow of the American Bar Association Foundation.

Judge Carlton, who holds the rank of colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves, has served as a JAG officer in the Army for 23 years. She is now assigned to the U.S. Army Reserve judiciary as a Reserve judge. She served on active duty in the U.S. Army 1990-1998.

Judge Carlton earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Mississippi and a law degree from the University of Mississippi School of Law. She served as a law clerk for former Supreme Court Justice Joel Blass. She earned a Master of Strategic Studies degree from the U.S. Army War College.

Judge Carlton and her husband, Scott Carlton M.D., have three teenage children.

Judge Bise, of Gulfport, has served as a chancellor of the 8<sup>th</sup> Chancery Court since January 2002. The 8<sup>th</sup> Chancery includes Harrison, Hancock and Stone counties.

The New Orleans native earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Belhaven College, now Belhaven University, and a law degree from the University of Mississippi School of Law. He practiced law on the Gulf Coast for 20 years.

He served twice as president of the Harrison County Young Lawyers, and on the boards of Lynn Meadows Discovery Center, Harrison County Habitat for Humanity, and South Mississippi AIDS Task Force. He teaches Sunday School and assists with worship at First United Methodist Church, Gulfport.

Judge Bise and his wife Penny have been married for 34 years. They have a son and a daughter.

He is an avid runner, having run about 50 marathons and ultra-marathons.

Judge Jackson, of Pascagoula, has served as Circuit Judge of the 19<sup>th</sup> Circuit District since 1991. She is senior judge of the district which includes George, Greene and Jackson counties. In 2001, she became the first female chair of the state Conference of Circuit Judges. She created the 19<sup>th</sup> District Drug Court in 2002. Since 2005, she has served as a presiding judge on the Complaint Tribunal for the Mississippi Bar.

Judge Jackson was born in Lexington. She is a graduate of Delta State University and the University of Mississippi School of Law. In 1977, she became the state's first female assistant district attorney. She served as an assistant district attorney 1977-1978 and again 1980-1986 with then District Attorney Mike Moore. In 1990, she served as a special assistant attorney general in the Public Integrity Division. She also engaged in the private practice of law in Pascagoula. She was named Outstanding Woman on the Mississippi Gulf Coast in 1994.

Judge Jackson and her husband, David, have twin sons.

Judge Lewis, of Lexington, has served as Circuit Judge of the 21<sup>st</sup> Circuit District since 1995. She created the 21<sup>st</sup> District Drug Court in 2006. The district includes Holmes, Humphreys and Yazoo counties. She served for six years on the Complaint Tribunal for the Mississippi Bar.

Judge Lewis is a graduate of Jackson State University and the University of Iowa. She began her law career as a staff attorney with North Mississippi Rural Legal Services in Lexington, and later was managing attorney of NMRLS in Greenwood. She was in private practice of law in Lexington 1987-1994. She served as Municipal Judge for the town of Tchula and as a county prosecuting attorney 1992-1994.

Judge Lewis teaches Sunday School and is a trustee of her church. She is married to Earl Blackmon.

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